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MRS. SAMUEL MARKELL · 12 BEVERLY ROAD · CHESTNUT HILL 67 · MASSACHUSETTS

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September 12/63

My Dear Mr. President -

I enclose an editorial with which I and many others with whom I have discussed it, agree entirely -

We have been upset for a number of years that the CIA has been permitted to interfere, and shape our military actions.

But the more of these secret funds the lack a

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Main info says that they obstructs our aims  
and persecutes our friends, is unforgivable.  
Did we learn nothing from Cuba?

I am confused - Report after report has  
stated that the CIA has a free hand - then  
I heard that you, Mr. President, stated that  
their objectionable policies are decided on in  
conference with the Joint Chiefs of Staff and  
the State Department. Either is distressing.  
But I would appreciate knowing which is  
correct -

Respectfully yours,  
Maria L. Markell

# The Boston Globe

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Tuesday, September 10, 1963

## Time to Talk Turkey

Administration spokesmen at Washington stated Monday that this country's policy of rendering aid to South Viet Nam "is continuing for the time being." If this means that our policy in that strife-ridden Southeast Asian country is being subjected to drastic reexamination, well and good.

For it has become next to impossible in the light of recent developments—including Monday's wholesale student arrests at Saigon by the Special Forces of Col Le Quang Tung—to make head or tail of our government's posture there.

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Only twenty-four hours prior to Monday's explosion of protest by students against the repressive anti-Buddhist campaign being conducted by President Ngo Dinh Diem's regime, reports from reliable American correspondents in Southeast Asia and Washington depicted once more the cross-purposes in which United States policy continues to flounder.

Our government is financing to the tune of approximately \$225,000 a month, through the Central Intelligence Agency, the South Vietnamese Special Forces, commanded by Col Le Quang Tung. Yet these same forces were involved in the raids and sacking of Buddhist pagodas last month at Saigon and Hue. They were also participants in the arrests of hundreds of protesting Buddhist students in Saigon last week and Monday.

In other words, the family dictatorship of President Ngo Dinh Diem is utilizing these Special Forces to frustrate the objective for which they were originally created, and which they are still being subsidized by American

funds—war against the Communist Viet Cong which is striving to take over the country.

Private denials by Washington officials in this matter are vehement. Public statements to the same effect are lacking because, it is explained, the whole Special Forces operation in South Viet Nam is the affair of the CIA, about whose activities few apparently are informed.

\*

Is it not time in dealing with the admittedly complex and difficult situation in South Viet Nam that our government's right hand were informed as to what its left hand is doing? Especially since there are strong indications from Southeast Asia that liaison between our able new ambassador in Saigon, Henry Cabot Lodge, and the CIA leaves something to be desired?

Our goal in South Viet Nam is to save that country from growing Communist armed forces which are actively pressing a war. That objective is being jeopardized by the contemptuous anti-American effrontery of the Ngo Dinh Diem family regime; by its reckless persecution of Buddhists, who constitute the overwhelming majority of the Vietnamese people, and by its bold, confident assertions that the United States must continue willy-nilly to pour out millions of aid and continue to hazard the lives of 14,000 American military who are seeking to advise and guide the anti-Communist struggle.

The first steps to retrieve this country's policy in South Viet Nam should be to halt all financial support of the misused Special Forces and subordinate the CIA

there to Ambassador Lodge.

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LEY: Thank you, Mr.

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